

9-13-19

Via E-mail Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil

Angela E Dunn Chief, Environmental Branch
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: LORS08 Planned Deviation

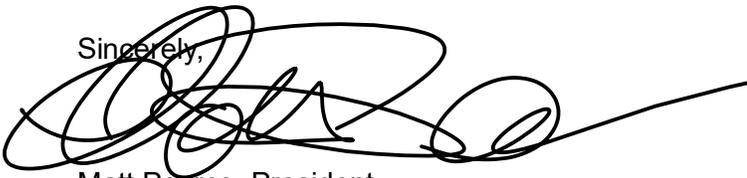
The Florida Cattlemen's Association is in receipt of your agency's "LORS08 Planned Deviation" and associated documentation and findings. The Florida Cattlemen's Association recognizes the water and environmental challenges that lay before Florida, especially with the continuing 1000 new resident per day increase of population and substantial number of visitors to our beautiful home. The goal to reduce harmful discharges to the estuaries during the wet season is commendable. We also are committed to being part of the solution to improve the water resource challenges in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed, Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries.

The Florida Cattlemen's Association would like to respectfully provide the following comment regarding the USACE's LORS2008 Planned Deviation:

The proposed deviation to LORS08 will allow for higher dry-season Lake releases than currently authorized with a stated goal to correspondingly reduce wet season discharges such that the net total discharge is unchanged from the current authorization. It does not appear that the northern Lake Okeechobee Watershed which is directly affected by Lake Okeechobee stages especially in the dry season was included in the "other areas" considered to be affected. This area has authorized water users and significant wetlands and natural slough systems that could be adversely affected by such a large decrease in water levels during dry seasons. The Florida Cattlemen have been land stewards for generations and lower Lake Okeechobee water levels during the dry season adversely affects the northern regional water levels and supply for grass production and natural system habitats.

Once again, the Florida Cattlemen's Association appreciates the Corps' consideration of our comment and request that this letter be included in the planned deviation's administrative record. Please feel free to contact me with any follow-up questions or concerns and we look forward to working with you on this very important issue and your response.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Pearce', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Pearce, President,
Florida Cattlemen's Association

C: Jim Handley, Executive Vice-President, FCA
Gene Lollis, President Elect, FCA
Benita Whalen, P.E., Water & Environmental Manager, FCA